by the international community, which openly recognizes Pakistan's state sponsorship of terrorism and the impact this has on the security of India and the region.

Visit of Foreign Minister to Moscow

2345. SHRI CM. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he had recently paid a visit to Moscow for talks and longterm collaboration in defence, trade and economic affairs; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the talks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) and (b) The External Affairs Minister paid an official visit to the Russian Federation from May 23—25, 1999. During the visit, EAM had a telephonic conversation with then President of the Russian Federation, Mr. Boris Yeltsin. EAM also met Deputy Prime Minister Valentina Matvienko, then Secretary of the Security Council of the Russian Federation Vladimir Putin, then Special Envoy of the Russian President to the Balkans Viktor Chernomyrdin and the Mayor of the City of Moscow Yuri Luzhkov. EAM had a detailed exchange of views on bilateral, regional and international issues with his counterpart, Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov. During these discussions, both sides underlined that Indo- Russian relations were time-tested and based on continuity, trust and mutual understanding. Our interaction with the Russian Federation is comprehensive and multifaceted. Further measures to strengthen and develop our bilateral cooperation in all areas were touched upon. It was agreed that a Declaration on Strategic Partnership between India and the Russian Federation would be signed at the next Indo-Russian Summit.

Dues on United Nation

2346. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that United Nation owes India's about $50 million in peace keeping dues;

(b) if so, since when these arrears have been due;

(c) whether Government have taken up the matter with United Nations; and